Import of food items

†180. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names and quantities of food items, which Government has imported in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the import price of the said items and the procurement price of these indigenously produced food items offered by Government to the farmers;

(c) the quantity of food items perished or turned inedible for want of proper facility in the country; and

(d) whether the quantity of import can be reduced by improving storage system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of staff in F.C.I. in Orissa

181. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are inadequate number of employees with the Food Corporation of India located in Orissa; and

(b) the extent to which the procurement operations in Orissa are going to be hampered by such deficiency of personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed filling up of 1413 posts in Category-II and III against Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) of FCI from 2003-04 to 2008-09.

(b) Orissa is a Decentralized Procurement State and the State agencies are presently responsible for paddy procurement. However, on the request of Government of Orissa, FCI has opened 80 paddy procurement centres in the State. There is no report of paddy procurement in Orissa getting hampered due to shortage of staff.

National programmes to provide food to BPL families

182. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large population in the country do not have proper meal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi